

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Trinity Church and Graveyard

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Broadway at Wall Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

New York

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

17th

STATE

New York

VICINITY OF

CODE

COUNTY

New York

CODE

3 CLASSIFICATION**CATEGORY**

___DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

___STRUCTURE

___SITE

___OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

___PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

___BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

___IN PROCESS

___BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS☒ OCCUPIED

___UNOCCUPIED

___WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE☒ YES: RESTRICTED

___YES: UNRESTRICTED

___NO

PRESENT USE

___AGRICULTURE

___MUSEUM

___COMMERCIAL

___PARK

___EDUCATIONAL

___PRIVATE RESIDENCE

___ENTERTAINMENT

☒ RELIGIOUS

___GOVERNMENT

___SCIENTIFIC

___INDUSTRIAL

___TRANSPORTATION

___MILITARY

___OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Parish of Trinity Church/Mr. Charles W. Pruitt, Jr., Deputy for Parish Administration

STREET & NUMBER

74 Trinity Place

CITY, TOWN

New York

VICINITY OF

STATE

New York 10006

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Department of Records

STREET & NUMBER

City Hall

CITY, TOWN

New York

STATE

New York

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

New York Landmarks Commission

DATE

305 Broadway

___FEDERAL ___STATE ☒ COUNTY ___LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

New York

STATE

New York

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED
☐ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Trinity Church is based on a drawing by A.W. Pugin in True Principles with some modifications: the impressive chancel was omitted and the pitch of the roof was modified. The drawing and plans for the new church were delivered by Upjohn in 1839, the cornerstone was laid in June 1841, and then they were probably altered and changed in the intervening time.

The ground plan comes directly from the middle ages:

"There was a nave and aisles, a tower projecting from the center of the west front, and a porch from the south side. But the feature that was most radical and that caused the most comment was the deep, (two bays) structural chancel. Upjohn was an ardent High Churchman, and equipped it with choir stalls, but the anti-papistical feeling was so strong that these were not used at first.

"Curiously, though Trinity was enormously important as the manifesto of the second stage of the Gothic Revival, it was almost immediately outmoded from the point of view of actual design. In style it is a lavish perpendicular. It is crowned by a roof of slight pitch, the buttresses of the tower are pannelled, the battlements of the tower and eastern gable are likewise panelled and openwork, the wall about the east window on the interior is panelled, the nave is covered by a lierne vault. Throughout there is the interest in elaborate detail, perpendicular in style, which in England was characteristic of the first stirrings of the scholarly interest in Gothic. In America this same point of view is reflected in the elaborate plaster Gothic churches, which purely in design of their detail were very close to Trinity, though in essence, in their disposition of the detail, in their stubby plans, in their simple, neo-classical massing, they were provincial and conservative buildings."¹

"On September 9, 1839, the architect submitted plans for a new church, with a spire fifty feet higher than its predecessor. Though the width of the structure was the same, fifteen feet were added in length, and Upjohn at the same time asked permission to increase that dimension by one or two bays more. The cost of the church, built in stone but with a spire of wood, was estimated at \$85,000; to build the spire also of stone would add \$5,000 more. The Corporation wisely decided to have their spire of stone and, ultimately, to grant the request for additional length.

"The cornerstone of the new church was not laid until June 3, 1841. The report of the Building Committee describes the laying of the cornerstone in 'the North East buttress of the tower,' with an inscription giving on the side the date and the names of the ministers and vestrymen and on the other those of the committee, Richard Upjohn, architect, James Thom, sculptor, James Vandenberg, master mason, and Samuel Martin, master carpenter.

1. Coolidge, John, Honors Thesis, 1935, Unpublished, Harvard University, pp.139-140

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1846 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Richard Upjohn (1802-1878)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Trinity is the oldest Episcopal church in New York city. It is also one of the early triumphs of the Gothic Revival style in America. Chartered by King William III of England in 1697, the church was also enriched by Queen Anne's grant in 1705 which carried land with it. George Washington worshiped at Trinity on many occasions.

The New York City Landmarks Commission describes it as follows:

"The first Trinity Church was burned in the Great Fire of 1776; the second Church was razed in 1839 because of structural weakness. The great historical associations of Trinity Church are best exemplified in the stories told by the headstones and monuments of the handsome, old burying ground which surrounds the Church. It holds the remains of many historical persons, among whom are Alexander Hamilton, Captain James Lawrence, Robert Fulton, Albert Gallatin, and Francis Lewis, the only signer of the Declaration of Independence to be buried in Manhattan.

"The present Trinity Church, completed in 1846, is the third edifice of this Episcopal parish, founded in 1697, to stand on this prominent site, closing the vista at the end of Wall Street. The present Church is one of the monuments of the Gothic Revival and was executed in brownstone by the noted ecclesiastical architect Richard Upjohn in a free rendering of English Gothic. Its spire, once the highest structures on the New York skyline, is the most notable feature of the Church. The tower itself is given a marvelous appearance of solidity, being double-buttressed at each corner by stone buttresses which diminish in depth as the tower rises. Four ornate pinnacles at the corners with flying buttresses behind them make a skillful transition from the square tower to the handsome octagonal spire." 1

Upjohn was deeply influenced by Augustus Welby Pugin, the high-priest of the English Gothic Revival. English born, Upjohn came to Massachusetts in 1829. He adhered as Pugin had preached, to archaeological accuracy of form and detail in Gothic design.

Trinity also was pivotal in Richard Upjohn's career:

"He was catapulted into national fame when he fortuitously gained the commission to design a new church for what was probably the richest and best-known Episcopal parish in the country. In 1839 the second church of Trinity Parish, New York, was

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Broderick, Robert C., Historic Churches of the United States, Wilfred Funk, Inc., New York, 1958
2. Coolidge, John, Honors Thesis, Unpublished, Harvard University, 1935
3. Loth, Calder and Sadler, Julius, The Only Proper Style, New York Graphic Society, Boston, 1975
4. New York Landmarks Commission reports

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than two acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,8 5,8,3 4,2,0 4,5 0,6 5,8,0
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Borough of Manhattan tax map, Block 49, Lot 1

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Carolyn Pitts, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service

DATE

August 1976

STREET & NUMBER

1100 L Street, NW.

TELEPHONE

523-5464

CITY OR TOWN

Washington

STATE

D. C.

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ____

STATE ____

LOCAL ____

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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"Realizing the necessity of a deep chancel to a ritualistic form of service, he fought hard and in the end successfully for that revolutionary feature which to many smacked of popery.

"The stained glass was made on the spot, a shed being erected for that purpose just behind the church proper to carry out the architect's designs."²

The side aisles are expressively designed with large, pointed windows separated by buttresses. Piers terminating in pinnacles separate the great windows in the upper part of the nave or clerestory. The sculptured bronze doors at the east end of the Church, in the north and south portals and in the main entrance at the base of the tower are the work of noted American sculptors and are among the finest of their kind in this country.

"Trinity Church contains many treasures of art workmanship. In its tower are some of the oldest church bells in this country, the first of which was brought over in 1797 on the ship Favorite. There are now ten bells, the largest weighing 3,000 pounds, and their sound echoes through the financial district as it did in the nineteenth century when, by order of the Mayor, the bells pealed out fire alarms. The spire itself served as a landmark to ships at sea until long after the Civil War.

"The church is a treasury of memorial gifts. These can still be seen by visitors, and are amply cataloged. But it is the churchyard which gives strongest testimony to Trinity's past. Surrounding the church is the oldest burial ground in lower Manhattan. Here are the graves of Alexander Hamilton, the first Secretary of the Treasury; Robert Fulton, inventor of the steamboat; William Bradford, founder of New York's first newspaper; and many others--heroes, civic leaders, and the unknown faithful. Today the church is a reminder of our first days of freedom, and appropriately enough, it faces the street where the material fruits of that freedom are counted and marked in ledgers."³

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2. Upjohn, Everhard M., Richard Upjohn, Architect and Churchman, Da Capo Press, New York, 1968, pp. 50-55
 3. Broderick, Robert C. Churches in Early American History, Wilfred Funk, Inc., New York, 1958, pp. 26-28

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seriously weakened by heavy snows, and the Corporation resolved to engage an architect to determine whether the building should be repaired or replaced. The selection committee first met in a room containing a lithograph of Upjohn's recently completed Bangor church, and a committeeman pointed out that whoever designed that church must know what he was doing. Happily, Dr. John Wainwright, Rector of Trinity, was able to identify the architect. Upjohn was thereupon called to New York, where inspection of the old building led him to conclude that it was beyond repair. The Corporation accordingly decided to have it pulled down and commissioned him to design a suitable replacement. By the time he started to work on the plans, Upjohn had become acquainted with Pugin's publications on Gothic architecture. Thus armed with substantive knowledge of Medieval design, he was able to produce one of the purest and grandest specimens of the style yet seen in America, and the church provided an appropriate setting for the more ceremonial ritual then being reintroduced in the Anglican Communion. Pugin's influence is shown in Trinity's exterior scheme which bears a striking resemblance to 'An Ideal Church,' a design in the Perpendicular style from The True Principles.

"Completed in 1846, Trinity was considered a marvel. Although purists criticized its plaster vaulting, no Gothic edifice so splendid in concept, authentic in design, and rich in crafted details had yet been seen here. It secured Upjohn's reputation, but was not much imitated, as it was too large and expensive for any but the richest parishes to copy. Furthermore, the Early English and Decorated styles soon came to be advanced as more appropriate for Episcopal churches than the Perpendicular." ²

Trinity Church is one of Upjohn's masterpieces as well as a church of great historic importance. A.J. Downing admired it and critics and architects alike still consider it one of the greatest churches erected in America.

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2. Loth, Calder and Sadler, Julius, The Only Proper Style, New York Graphic Society, Boston, 1975, pp. 59-60

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PAGE 2

5. Stanton, Phoebe B., The Gothic Revival and American Church Architecture,
Johns Hopkins, Baltimore, 1968
6. Upjohn, Everhard M., Richard Upjohn, Architect and Churchman, Da Capo Press,
New York, 1968